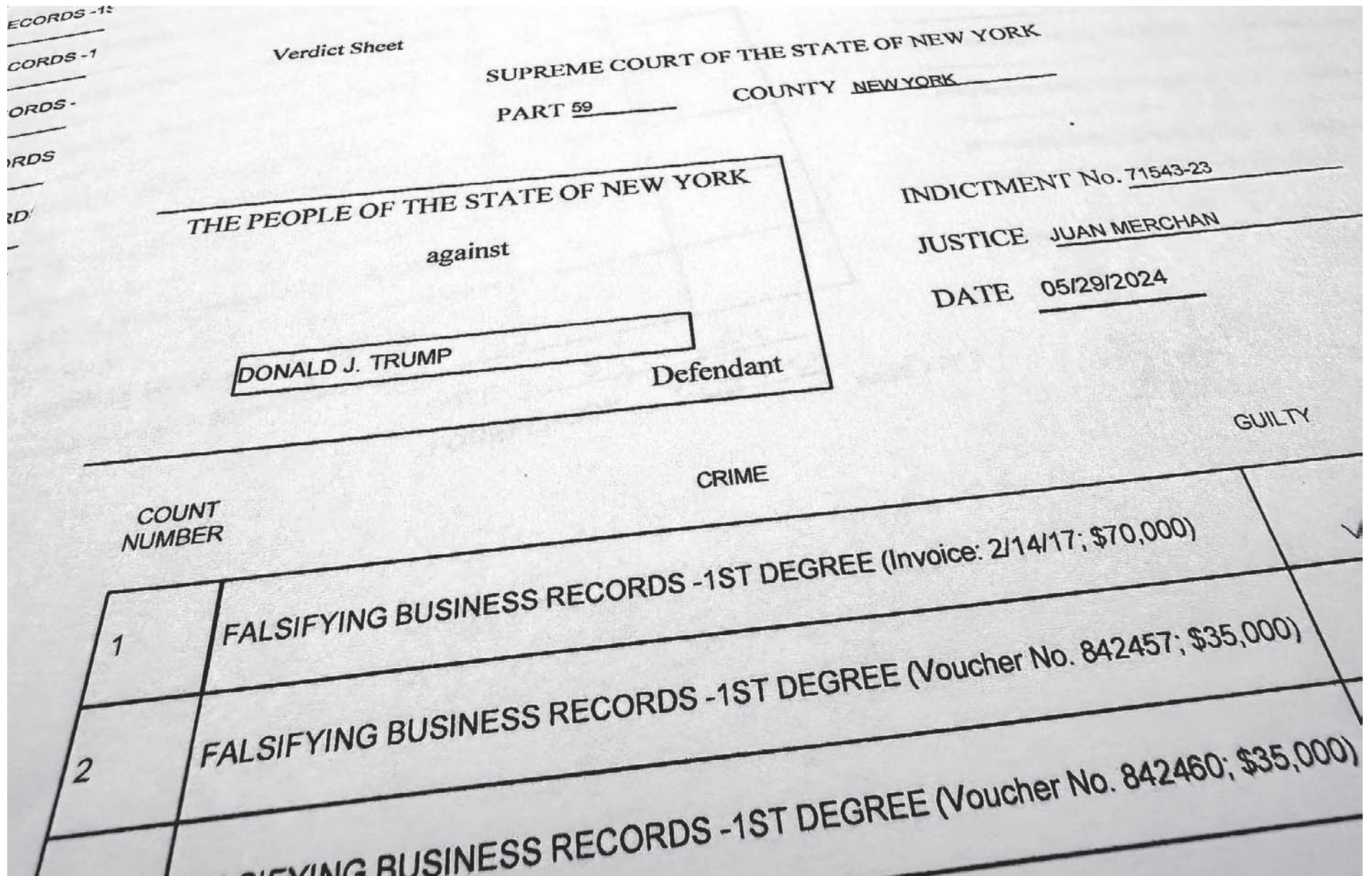




Aruba's ONLY English newspaper

AP-NORC poll: About half of U.S. adults approve of Trump's conviction, but views of him remain stable



The verdict sheet in the hush money trial of former President Donald Trump is photographed Thursday, May 30, 2024, after a jury convicted Trump of felony crimes for falsifying business records in a scheme to illegally influence the 2016 election.

Associated Press
Page 2

By S. PEOPLES and L. SANDERS
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — About half of U.S. adults approve of Donald Trump's recent felony conviction, according to a poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for

Public Affairs Research. The survey shows some potential vulnerabilities, along with some signs of resilience in his support, as Trump tries to become the first American with a felony record to win the presidency. Less than five months be-

fore Election Day, the poll paints a picture of a nation with firmly entrenched opinions of the divisive former Republican president. Overall views of Trump and Democratic President Joe Biden remain unchanged since before the guilty

verdict in Trump's New York hush money trial. But the findings also suggest that Trump's conviction is one more weakness among disaffected Republicans.

Continued on Page 2

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AP-NORC poll: About half of U.S. adults approve of Trump's conviction, but views of him remain stable

Continued from Front

While most people in the United States have heard about the conviction, political independents are less likely to be paying attention and more likely to have a neutral opinion of Trump's conviction, indicating that there may still be room for the campaigns to sway them.

Nancy Hauser, a 74-year-old independent from West Palm Beach, Florida, said she approves of Trump's conviction based on the little she followed of the trial. The verdict, she said, suggests that Trump may be willing to engage in criminal activity if he were back in the White House.

"I feel if you've been convicted of a crime, especially a felony, a serious crime, how can you run a country?" she said.

But she also has concerns about Biden, especially his age and leadership on the economy and the war in Israel. Biden is 81, while Trump turns 78 on Friday.

"I'm not sure who I'm voting for," Hauser said. "That's the sad part."

Overall, U.S. adults are more likely to approve of Trump's conviction than they are to disapprove, according to a survey of 1,115 adults nationwide conducted over three days beginning a week af-



Former President Donald Trump walks outside of Manhattan Criminal Court after a jury convicted him of felony crimes for falsifying business records in a scheme to illegally influence the 2016 election Thursday, May 30, 2024, in New York.

Associated Press

ter the verdict was delivered May 30, and before Biden's son Hunter was convicted in a federal gun case on Tuesday.

About 3 in 10 somewhat or strongly disapprove of Trump's conviction, and about 2 in 10 do not approve or disapprove. Perspectives were similar among registered voters, with about half saying the conviction was the right choice.

Republicans are less united on the verdict than are Democrats. Roughly 6 in 10

Republicans somewhat or strongly disapprove of the conviction, while 15% of Republican adults approve and about 2 in 10 Republicans neither approve nor disapprove. Among Democrats, by contrast, more than 8 in 10 somewhat or strongly approve.

About half of Americans say that the conviction was politically motivated, while a similar share think it was not. Nearly half of Republicans who have an unfavorable view of Trump do not see

the conviction as politically motivated, compared with less than 1 in 10 Republicans who have a positive opinion of him.

Overall opinions of Trump barely budged.

About 6 in 10 U.S. adults have an unfavorable opinion of Trump, which is in line with findings from an AP-NORC poll conducted in February. Four in 10 have a favorable view of Trump, also largely unchanged since February. The numbers are equally poor for Biden: 4 in 10 U.S.

adults have a favorable view of the Democratic president, while about 6 in 10 have a negative one.

Ron Schwartz, a 59-year-old self-described moderate Republican who lives in Dallas, said that Trump was "probably guilty" of the alleged crimes, although Schwartz believes politics were a major factor in the case.

He said the charges should not have been felonies, a level of crime that blocks those convicted from owning guns or voting in many states. Still, Schwartz plans to vote for Trump, as he did in the past two presidential elections, despite having serious concerns about the former president's character. "I think he's a disgusting human being," Schwartz said. "But he has some good policies and good ideas."

Independents are split on Trump overall: About 4 in 10 have a positive view, while a similar share have a negative view. A plurality — nearly half — did not express a strong opinion on the conviction, saying they did not approve or disapprove.

Cassi Carey, a 60-year-old independent who lives in suburban Milwaukee, said the conviction does not reflect well on Trump, although she acknowledges she was not paying close attention to the specifics. □



President Joe Biden talks with his son Hunter Biden as he arrives Delaware Air National Guard Base in New Castle, Del., Tuesday, June 11, 2024.

Associated Press

By COLLEEN LONG

Associated Press

ABOARD AIR FORCE ONE (AP) — The White House is not ruling out a potential com-

mutation for Hunter Biden, the president's son who was convicted on three federal gun crimes and is set to be sentenced by a judge in the

The White House isn't ruling out a potential commutation for Hunter Biden after his conviction

coming months. "As we all know, the sentencing hasn't even been scheduled yet," White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre told reporters Wednesday on Air Force One as President Joe Biden traveled to the Group of Seven summit in Italy.

She said she has not spoken to the president about the issue since the verdict was delivered Tuesday.

Biden definitively ruled out pardoning his son during an ABC News interview last week.

"He was very clear, very upfront, obviously very definitive," Jean-Pierre said of the president's remarks about a potential pardon. But on a commutation, "I just don't have anything beyond that." A pardon is an expression of forgiveness of a criminal offense that restores some rights, such as voting, that a person loses upon conviction. Meanwhile, a commutation reduces a sentence but leaves the conviction intact. The position from the White House is a shift from what

it said in September, when Jean-Pierre was asked whether the president would "pardon or commute his son if he's convicted." The press secretary responded at the time that "I've answered this question before. It was asked of me not too long ago, a couple of weeks ago. And I was very clear, and I said no." Hunter Biden was convicted of lying on a mandatory gun purchase form by saying he was not illegally using or addicted to drugs, and illegally having the gun for 11 days. □

House votes to hold Attorney General Merrick Garland in contempt for withholding Biden audio

By FARNOUSH AMIRI

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House voted Wednesday to hold Attorney General Merrick Garland in contempt of Congress for refusing to turn over audio of President Joe Biden's interview in his classified documents case, Republicans' latest and strongest rebuke of the Justice Department as partisan conflict over the rule of law animates the 2024 presidential campaign.

The 216-207 vote fell along party lines, with Republicans coalescing behind the contempt effort despite reservations among some of the party's more centrist members.

"We have to defend the Constitution. We have to defend the authority of Congress," House Speaker Mike Johnson said at a press conference ahead of the vote. "We can't allow the Department of Justice and Executive Branch to hide information from Congress."

Garland is now the third attorney general to be held in contempt of Congress. Yet it is unlikely that the Justice Department which Garland oversees



Attorney General Merrick Garland listens to a question while testifying during a House Judiciary Committee hearing on the Department of Justice, June 4, 2024, on Capitol Hill in Washington.

Associated Press

will prosecute him. The White House's decision to exert executive privilege over the audio recording, shielding it from Congress, would make it exceedingly difficult to make a criminal case against Garland.

The White House and congressional Democrats have slammed Republicans' motives for pursuing contempt and dismissed their efforts to obtain the audio as purely political. They also pointed

out that Rep. Jim Jordan, the GOP chair of the House Judiciary Committee, defied his own congressional subpoena last session. "This contempt resolution will do very little, other than smear the reputation of Merrick Garland, who will remain a good and decent public servant no matter what Republicans say about him today," New York Rep. Jerry Nadler, the top Democrat on Judiciary Committee,

said during floor debate.

Garland has defended the Justice Department, saying officials have gone to extraordinary lengths to provide information to the committees about Special Counsel Robert Hur's classified documents investigation, including a transcript of Biden's interview with him. "There have been a series of unprecedented and frankly unfounded attacks on the Justice De-

partment," Garland said in a press conference last month. "This request, this effort to use contempt as a method of obtaining our sensitive law enforcement files is just most recent."

Republicans were incensed when Hur declined to prosecute Biden over his handling of classified documents and quickly opened an investigation. GOP lawmakers led by Jordan and Rep. James Comer sent a subpoena for audio of Hur's interviews with Biden during the spring. But the Justice Department only turned over some of the records, leaving out audio of the interview with the president.

On the last day to comply with the Republicans' subpoena for the audio, the White House blocked the release by invoking executive privilege.

It said that Republicans in Congress only wanted the recordings "to chop them up" and use them for political purposes.

Executive privilege gives presidents the right to keep information from the courts, Congress and the public to protect the confidentiality of decision-making, though it can be challenged in court. □

Report: Differences between gay and straight spouses disappear after legalization of gay marriage

By MIKE SCHNEIDER

Associated Press

Same-sex spouses were typically younger, had more education and were more likely to be employed than those in opposite-sex marriages, although many of those differences disappeared after the legalization of gay marriage in 2015, according to a new report released Tuesday by the U.S. Census Bureau.

Almost 1.5 million people lived with a same-sex spouse in the U.S. in 2022, double what it was in the year before gay marriage was legalized, according

to the bureau's American Community Survey.

A 2015 decision by the U.S. Supreme Court made same-sex marriages legal in all 50 states. In the year before that ruling, same-sex marriages had been legalized in just over a third of states through legislation and lower court rulings.

The 2015 Supreme Court decision proved to be a watershed, with around 41% of same-sex spouses reported in 2022 getting married within four years of the ruling. By comparison, 14% of those in opposite-sex marriages were married

between 2015 and 2019, according to the Census Bureau report.

When just comparing marriages after the 2015 Supreme Court decision, many of the differences — including employment status, length of marriage and education levels among women — disappeared between same-sex spouses and opposite-sex spouses, the report said.

In addition, those in a same-sex marriage were older than their counterparts in opposite-sex marriages if they got married after 2015, a flip flop from



John Lewis, left, and Stuart Gaffney embrace outside San Francisco's City Hall shortly before the U.S. Supreme Court ruling cleared the way for same-sex marriage in California, June 26, 2013.

Associated Press

all marriages regardless of the timeframe.

Any differences between gay and heterosexual marriages before the Supreme

Court decision reflect the fact that same-sex marriage wasn't recognized in all states until 2015, according to the report. □

Dog fight! Joey Chestnut 'gutted' to be out of July 4 hot dog eating contest over brand dispute

By CEDAR ATTANASIO

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Joey "Jaws" Chestnut, the reigning champion of the Nathan's Famous Fourth of July hot dog eating contest, will not participate in this year's event after signing a deal with a rival brand, organizers said Tuesday.

Chestnut, 40, has long been the face not to mention the mouth of the competition. He has vied for the dog-downing contest's coveted Mustard Belt since 2005 and has won it almost every year since 2007, with the exception of a rare loss in 2015. In 2021, the Westfield, Indiana, resident ingested 76 franks and buns in 10 minutes, a record that still stands.

But Major League Eating event organizer George Shea says Chestnut is moving away from the contest due to a contract dispute. "We love him. The fans love him," Shea said, adding: "He made the choice." Chestnut disputed who made the choice, saying on the social platform X, "I do not have a contract with MLE or Nathans and they are looking to change



Joey Chestnut, center left, celebrates winning the Nathan's Famous Fourth of July hot dog eating contest in Coney Island on July 4, 2022, in New York.

the rules from past years as it relates to other partners I can work with."

In a thread posted Tuesday night after the news broke, Chestnut said he had been training to defend his title at this year's Independence Day event and only learned through media reports that he wouldn't be allowed to compete.

"I was gutted to learn from

the media that after 19 years I'm banned," Chestnut said on X. "To my fans, I love you and appreciate you. Rest assured that you'll see me eat again soon!!

STAY HUNGRY!"

Shea says Chestnut struck a deal with a competing brand a red line for the Nathan's-sponsored event. He wouldn't say which brand but told the New York Times

that Chestnut will be reping Impossible Foods, which makes vegan sausages. The company declined to comment on the deal. So did Chestnut.

Shea said the dispute came down to exclusivity, not money.

"It would be like Michael Jordan saying to Nike, 'I'm going to represent Adidas, too,'" Shea said.

In response, Impossible Foods released a statement that didn't address a deal with Chestnut but said that the company supports him in "any contest he chooses," adding "Meat eaters shouldn't have to be exclusive to just one wiener."

In May, the company announced an ad campaign aimed at engaging meat-eaters who want to supplement their diet with more plant-based proteins, even if they don't want to give up meat entirely.

The yearly bun fight, which dates back to 1972, sees large crowds of fans in foam hot-dog hats gather in front of the original Nathan's Famous' restaurant in Coney Island, Brooklyn, to cheer on the the competitors as they chow down. The contestants are allowed to dunk the dogs in cups of water to soften them up, creating a stomach-churning spectacle.

Those vying for second place in the past might have renewed hope to chomp their way to victory this year, including international competitors on the eating circuit. □

Florida's 2024 hurricane season arrives with a rainy deluge

By CURT ANDERSON

Associated Press

The annual rainy season has arrived with a wallop in much of Florida, where a disorganized disturbance of tropical weather from

the Gulf of Mexico has caused street flooding and triggered tornado watches but so far has not caused major damage or injuries. Florida's rainy season roughly begins in June with

the start of the six-month hurricane season, which this year is forecast to be among the most active in recent memory.

The disturbance has not reached cyclone status and was given only a slight chance to form into a tropical system once it emerges into the Atlantic Ocean after crossing Florida, according to the National Hurricane Center.

"Regardless of development, heavy rainfall is forecast to continue across portions of the Florida peninsula during the next few days," the hurricane center posted on its website Wednesday.

Numerous roads were flooded and impassable for vehicles, including a sec-

tion of major artery Interstate 95 in Broward County. The Florida Highway Patrol said southbound traffic was being diverted around the flooded section.

"This closure will remain until further notice and water drains from the interstate. Contractors are enroute to pump the drainage system," FHP said in an email. It's already been a wet and blustery week in Florida, especially in the Miami and Fort Lauderdale areas. In Miami about 6 inches (15 centimeters) of rain fell Tuesday and 7 inches (17 centimeters) in Miami Beach, according to the National Weather Service. Hollywood, just south of Fort Lauderdale, got about 5 inches (12 centimeters).

More rain was forecast for the rest of the week, leading the weather service office in Miami to extend a flash flood watch through Thursday.

Some places could see another half-foot (15 centimeters) of rain.

The western side of the state, much of which has been in a prolonged drought, also got some major rainfall. In Sarasota, nearly 6.5 inches (16.5 centimeters) of rain fell Tuesday at Sarasota Bradenton International Airport, the weather service says, and flash flood warnings were in effect in those areas as well.

The deluge comes amid forecasts of an unusually busy hurricane season. □



A driver blinks their hazard lights as heavy rain falls over parts of South Florida on Wednesday, June 12, 2024, in Hollywood, Fla. Associated Press

9 killed in Russian aerial attacks on Ukraine ahead of G7 summit aimed at slowing Moscow's offensive

By HANNA ARHIROVA

Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Russian forces launched new deadly attacks on Ukraine, killing at least nine people on Wednesday, a day before the leaders of countries that are some of Ukraine's biggest backers were to discuss how to slow Moscow's offensive.

Ukrainian authorities said that along with the nine killed, 29 others, including five children, were wounded when Russian missiles hit an apartment block in Kryvyi Rih, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's hometown.

Zelenskyy said the strike has again proven that "Ukraine, together with its partners, must strengthen its air defenses" something that he has repeatedly appealed for with Ukraine's Western partners.

The United States has agreed to send another Patriot missile system, two U.S. officials said late Tuesday.

"Modern air defense systems are capable of providing maximum protection of people, our cities, and our positions," Zelenskyy said.



Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy stands in front of a Patriot air defense missile system during a visit to a military training area in the German state of Western Pomerania, Tuesday, June 11, 2024, to learn about the training of Ukrainian soldiers on the "Patriot" air defence missile system.

Associated Press

"And we need as many of them as possible."

Earlier Wednesday, Ukraine's air force said it shot down more than two dozen air targets, including cruise missiles, a Kinzhal ballistic missile and Shahed drones. Several people were wounded, authorities

said.

Kyiv's outgunned and outnumbered forces are battling to hold back the bigger Russian army, which is trying to exploit Ukrainian vulnerabilities. Ukraine has been short of troops, ammunition and air defenses in recent months as the

Kremlin's forces try to cripple the national power supply and punch through the front line in eastern parts of the country.

Ukraine will need to weather the Russian onslaught through the summer, military analysts say, and in the meantime train more

soldiers, build fortifications and hope that the provision of Western military aid picks up speed so that in 2025 Kyiv may be able to mount its own offensive.

Several diplomatic events over the next few days are aimed at how to help Ukraine fend off the Russian invasion or how to bring about an end to the war.

On Thursday, President Joe Biden and the other Group of Seven leaders will gather in Italy for their annual summit to discuss ways to help Ukraine, including how to divert more frozen Russian assets to Kyiv's defense.

Separately, the Biden administration on Wednesday said it had broadened sanctions against Russia by targeting companies that help Moscow's war effort and raising the stakes for foreign financial institutions that work with sanctioned Russian entities.

The more than 300 new sanctions are largely aimed at deterring individuals and companies in countries such as China, the United Arab Emirates and Turkey from helping Moscow circumvent Western blocks on obtaining key technology. □

Argentine riot police disperse protesters with water cannons ahead of key Senate vote

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina

(AP) — Argentine riot police blasted protesters with water cannons to disperse crowds outside of Congress on Wednesday, escalating tensions before lawmakers were expected to vote on state overhaul and tax bills proposed by President Javier Milei.

Libertarian Milei's political opponents, powerful trade unions and thousands of demonstrators began converging around Congress early Wednesday when the Senate opened debate on the key legislation.

The demonstrators urged senators to reject Milei's program of harsh austerity and economic deregula-

tion. Hundreds of policemen backed by armored cars with mounted water cannons blocked the route at the edge of the square in downtown Buenos Aires, the country's capital. Protesters jostled and shoved against the column of police.

The vote is the most serious test to date of the libertarian leader's vision of governance and change.

Milei rose to power on promises he would solve Argentina's worst economic crisis in two decades. But his political party of relative novices holds just a tiny minority of seats in Congress and he has struggled to strike deals with the opposi-

tion.

Senators began debating two bills on Wednesday, a tax package that lowers the income tax threshold and a 238-article state reform bill, initially dubbed the "omnibus bill" because of its more than 600 articles. This watered-down version still delegates broad legislative powers to the president in energy, pensions and security, and includes measures to incentivize investment, deregulate the economy and trim the deficit.

Certain touchy subjects such as unions' provision of health care and the privatization of Argentina's national oil company have

been scrapped in hopes of reaching a compromise. □



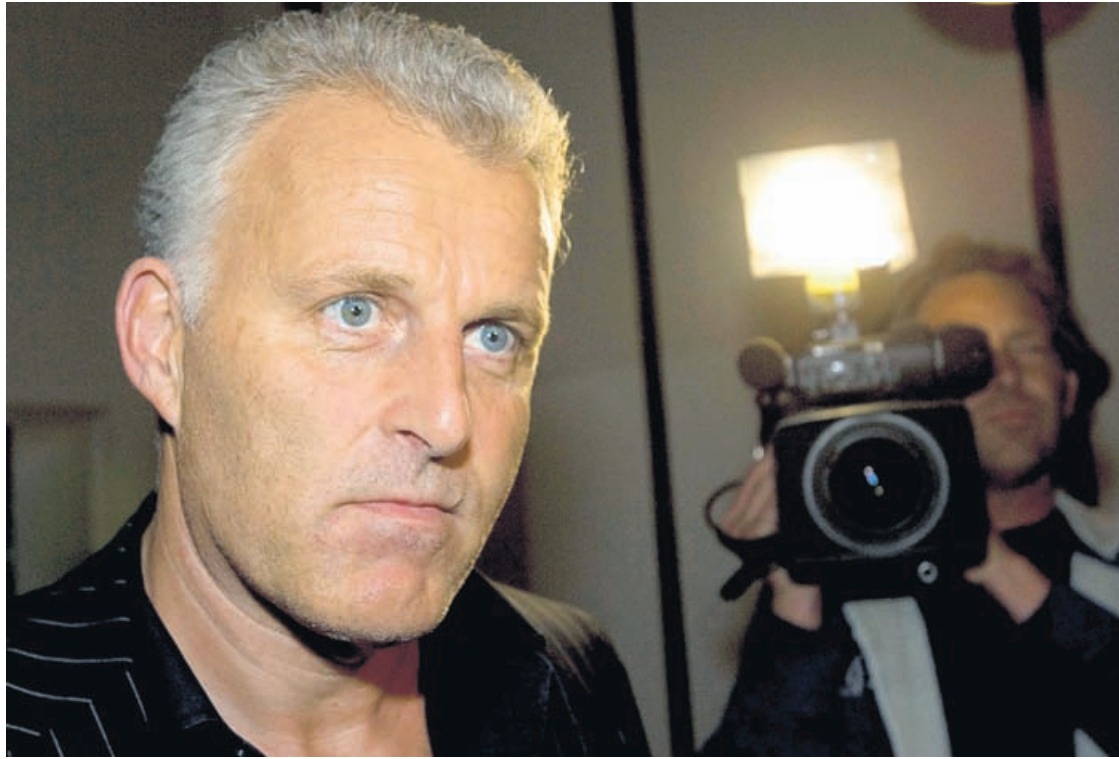
Police detain an anti-government protester outside Congress where lawmakers debate a reform bill promoted by Argentine Javier Milei in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Wednesday, June 12, 2024.

Associated Press

Dutch court convicts 3 men of murder in fatal shooting of investigative reporter in 2021

By **MIKE CORDER**
Associated Press

AMSTERDAM (AP) — A Dutch court on Wednesday convicted three men of murder for their roles in the 2021 shooting of investigative reporter Peter R. de Vries, a brazen attack in downtown Amsterdam that sent a shockwave through the Netherlands. His assassination appeared to be linked to a string of gangland hits in and around the Dutch capital, although the gang leader convicted of ordering some of them has not been charged in De Vries' killing. The shooter, getaway driver and organizer of the attack were convicted of direct involvement in the killing. The shooter and driver were sentenced to 28 years. The man who organized the slaying was sentenced to 26 years and one month. The three demonstrated "unprecedented ruthlessness and unscrupulousness. Their actions and the recklessness they showed demonstrate that they do not care about human life,"



Dutch crime reporter Peter R. de Vries looks on prior to attending a live TV show in Amsterdam, Netherlands, on Jan. 31, 2008.

Associated Press

said presiding Judge Gert Oldekamp of Amsterdam District Court. De Vries was gunned down on July 5, 2021, on a busy Amsterdam street and died nine days later of his injuries, at age 64. He had been an adviser and confidant for a pro-

tected witness in the trial of the alleged leader and other members of a crime gang. The witness' brother and lawyer were both murdered. The group's top gangster, Ridouan Taghi, was convicted of his role in five gangland killings and sen-

tenced to life behind bars in February. Judges called him the "undisputed leader" of a "murder organization." Taghi has appealed the convictions. Taghi has not been charged with involvement in the assassination of de Vries and prosecutors have

not charged any suspects with ordering de Vries killed. "Whether Taghi was involved in the murder of Peter de Vries and what intention he may have had is expressly not up for assessment in this criminal case," Oldekamp said.

De Vries' son, Royce, told national broadcaster NOS that the issue was something for lawyers to discuss. "The fact is that there is a conviction today and tough punishments imposed. For me, that is the most important now," he said.

Annemiek van Spanje, a lawyer for de Vries' family, said they were satisfied with the judgment, but that "the bottom line is ... it won't bring back their father."

A total of nine men were charged in connection with the murder. Three were convicted of complicity and were given sentences ranging from 10 years to 14 years. One man was convicted of drug possession but was cleared of complicity in the murder. He was sentenced to four weeks. □

Highly potent opioids are showing up in drug users in Africa for the first time, report says

By **CHINEDU ASADU**
Associated Press

ABUJA, Nigeria (AP) — Traces of highly potent opioids known as nitazenes

have for the first time been found to be consumed by people who use drugs in Africa, according to a report released Wednesday by

the Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime, a nonprofit organization.

Nitazenes, powerful synthetic opioids, have long been in use in Western countries as well as in Asia where they have been associated with overdose deaths. Some of them can be up to 100 times more potent than heroin and up to 10 times more potent than fentanyl, meaning that users can get an effect from a much smaller amount, putting them at increased risk of overdose and death. The report focused on Sierra Leone and Guinea-Bissau and is based on chemical testing of kush, a derivative of cannabis mixed with synthetic drugs like

fentanyl and tramadol and chemicals like formaldehyde. Researchers found that in Sierra Leone, 83% of the samples were found to contain nitazenes, while in Guinea-Bissau it was identified in 55%.

"The GI-TOC (Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime) believes that these results are the first indication that nitazenes have penetrated retail drug markets in Africa," the report said.

Many young people in West and Central Africa have become addicted to drugs with between 5.2% and 13.5% using cannabis, the most widely used illicit substance on the continent, according to the World Health Organization.

In Sierra Leone where kush is one of the most widely consumed drugs, President Julius Maada Bio this year declared war on the substance, calling it an epidemic and a national threat.

Nitazenes have been detected repeatedly in substances sold to young people in the region such that users are most likely ingesting them "without knowing the risks they face," Wednesday's report said.

The authors said their findings suggest that nitazenes are being imported into Sierra Leone from elsewhere and that the substance being sold as kush in Guinea-Bissau was of similar chemical composition to that found in Freetown. □



A young man smokes Kush, a derivative of cannabis mixed with synthetic drugs like fentanyl and tramadol and chemicals like formaldehyde, at a hideout in Freetown, Sierra Leone, April 29, 2024.

Associated Press

Visit the historic museum at Fort Zoutman!

(Oranjestad)—Located in the middle of downtown Oranjestad, situated right next to the government building “Cocolishi”, is one of the oldest buildings of Aruba: Fort Zoutman. First constructed in 1796, this site has been used (or left unused) in many ways and have survived eras of war and attempted dismantling.

When anyone refers to Fort Zoutman, they are actually referring to two separate buildings that, over the

years, have been merged: the fort and the tower. That's right, the iconic 5-story, squared tower was not part of the original structure of the fort, and is actually called “Willem III Toren”. Constructed in 1867, this tower was named after the then-reigning king of The Netherlands, Willem III. Willem III Toren was originally a light tower, but after a request from Lieutenant Governor Jan Helenus in 1866, it also became a bell tower.



The fort itself was originally constructed to protect the commerce bay of Paardenbaai from pirates and other disreputable characters roaming the Caribbean Sea. Unlike the Willem III Toren, Fort Zoutman had a more tumultuous past, including the on-and-off reception of unwanted members of the English military several times (The Netherlands was at constant war with England back in the colonial era). Over the years, both the

fort and the tower had functioned as different government center points, including a tax and stamps office. For some time these two buildings also housed a police precinct and jail, and even experienced abandonment until the Cultural Center Aruba Foundation (CCA) petitioned for its renovation in 1964, turning the site into the Historic Museum it currently is.

Despite its small size, The Historic Museum guards a rich depository of the com-

mercial, military and social history of Oranjestad, offering a glance into how the social culture of the town came to be. If you are interested in history and want to learn more about Aruba, then Fort Zoutman should definitely be included into your itinerary.

The museum is open Monday to Friday from 9am-6pm, and Saturday from 10am-2pm. □

Source: The Old Fort of Aruba
by Jan Hartog.

How Aruban beaches came to be!

(Oranjestad)—We've talked about the best beaches to visit on the island before, but have you ever wondered how Aruba got its white, sandy beaches, and why there's a clear difference between the northern and southern shores? Here are some fun facts about the development of Aruban beaches.

How did Aruba get its white, sandy beaches?
Aruba's beaches have de-

veloped over the span of thousands of years. Waves crashing on the rocky formations along our coast line (which consists mainly of coral reefs) have started to wear and tear the reefs over time, resulting in its gradual breakdown. Fish that feed off corals also contribute to this, one small bite at a time. Over the course of thousands of years, as waves continue to crash and fish continue to eat off the corals,

sand starts to accumulate around the area. However, whether the sand stays there is another question to be answered, and this is where we highlight the biggest difference between the northern and southern coast of the island.

The sand that accumulates around a torn coral reef is swept away along with the debris by the ocean stream. However, in areas where it's shallow and the



stream is weaker, the sand tends to stick to the bottom faster. This is why the beaches in the south—the areas with weaker stream and shallower ocean floors—has sand that stretches for miles. In contrast, the northern area, where the stream is much stronger and the ocean floor is much deeper, there is no sand present—they were swept away with the current!

interesting phrasing.

Aruba is a continental island. The island actually forms part of South America, and the space between Aruba and the South American continent is simply referred to as land that runs under the ocean. This is why it gets gradually deeper in the south, whereas the ocean floor in the north runs steeply to the bottom.

Why north deep, but south shallow?
Ah! Good question...and

Source: archival document provided by the National Archive of Aruba (ANA). □



Visit the island's hidden natural pools



(Oranjestad)—Amongst the countless beaches surrounding the island that are well-known and frequently visited, there are an additional two “hidden” natural pools that are situated in the northern coast of the island, two ideal stops in your tour itinerary.

Conchi (Natural Pool)

For many years, Conchi was the only natural pool that we had on the island. Located in the Arikok Na-

tional Park, near Boca Keto and the Daimari Ranch, Conchi—also known “Cura di Turtuga (Turtle's Cove) or just Natural Pool—is reachable with any 4x4 vehicle or by foot if you're up for a long hike. However, since it is part of the National Park, you must first get permission from park management to enter. You would have to purchase a day pass, and receive a wristband as proof of payment. Once you've completed that,

you are set!

If you decide to hike from the entrance of the Arikok National Park, this is also possible: do bring plenty of protective clothing and enough water and food—it could take you up to three hours to hike there!

However, when you eventually do get there, you will be greeted with crystal blue water surrounded by a natural rock formation that protects you from the wild waves on the other side. Though the pool is located on the northern side of the island (where the sea is largely rough and largely no suitable for swimming), the pool itself is very calm. It's also relatively deep, and you can climb up the rocks and jump in!

Cave Pool

This relatively new pool appeared just a few years ago, when a part of the dried up coral floor broke off and created a partition between the ocean and what is now the natural pool that is hidden there.



Because it's still so new, there is no official name for it, but most people just call it the cave pool.

Just like the Conchi, the new natural pool is situated on the northern coast of Aruba. However, this pool is much easier to reach with any type of vehicle, and there is no hiking needed. This spot has also become a regular stop for touring visitors.

When you get there, maybe you won't be able to spot the pool immediately, because you will probably notice the moon-shaped

lagoon where wild northern waves crash into each other. Sounds scary, but if you look down on your right, you'll see a calm, crystal blue little pool in the corner. To get there, you have to climb down some stairs. Be careful when climbing down and follow the instructions of your tour guide if you have one.

And just like Conchi, this pool also has a jumping spot, and a rope to climb back up the boulder.□

Picture of cave pool is credited to RockaBeach Tours

Father's Day Special at
laguna

JUNE 16, 2024
5:30PM - 10:30pm

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Father's Day Special Menu

Aruba to me



ORANJESTAD — You are back or still enjoying your vacation?... we would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island.

Complete the sentence: Aruba to me is Send your picture with that text (including your name and where you are from) to: news@arubatoday.com and we will publish your vacation memory. Isn't that a special way to keep your best moments alive? Please do note: By submitting photos, text or any other materials, you give permission to The Aruba Today Newspaper, Caribbean Speed Printers and any of its affiliated companies to use said materials, as well as names, likeness, etc. for promotional purposes without compensation.

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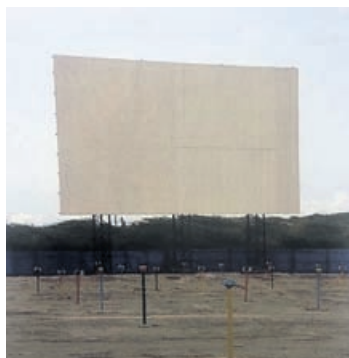


Forgotten gems Open air movie theaters

(Oranjestad)—During the span of over 100 years, Aruba only saw five open air movie theatres. Now practically obsolete on the island, these theaters were once frequently visited by locals and migrants in the 20th century.

The first open air theater was constructed in 1920 and was commissioned by Shon Eduard (Eddy) de Veer. This theater was located at the Hotel Colombia in Oranjestad, which is now where the Aruban census office is located. The theater was simple; it only consisted of a screen, and visitors had to bring their own chairs to enjoy the popular silent movies of the time.

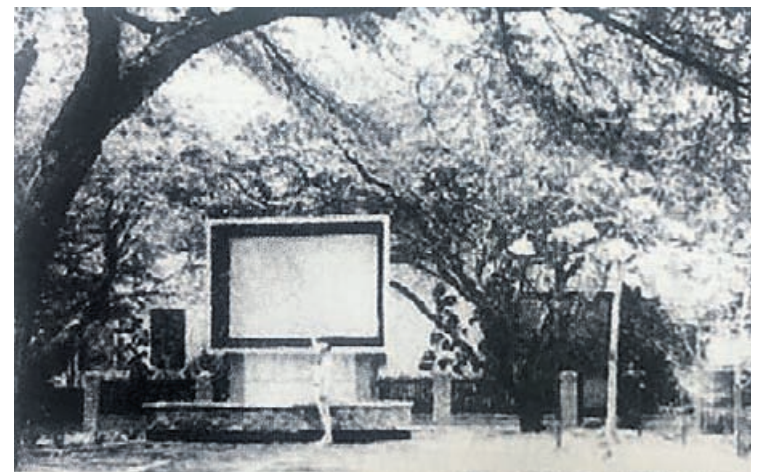
American migrants who worked in the refinery and lived in the Lago Colony in Sero Colorado also had



their piece of the pie with their Open air Theatre, which formed part of the Esso Club, also known as the Pan-Am Club. It was at

this theater that "Talkies" were first streamed, movies with sound. This theater mostly streamed American blockbusters for the American expats, this way making sure that these migrant were not missing out on entertainment from their home land.

In the 1950's and 60's, Savaneta saw their own open air theater, located in front of the Marinier's Kazerne (Marine Barracks). This theater was mostly visited by



the neighboring marines, who didn't have much entertainment other than movies at that time.

The last and most recent open air theater was constructed in the form of a drive-in theater. A popular American concept, the Drive Inn located in Balashi was a hot spot for teenagers, who had the habit of cramming all their friends in one car to go see the movies. For this phenomenon there was a separate price that you had to pay called the "car crash".

This theater closed around 2012, but was re-opened during the pandemic in July 2020, where movies were streamed on a gigantic screen set up in front of stacked containers. However, this nostalgic form of entertainment did not last very long as it was closed again only a year or two later. Nowadays you can still see the stacked containers when you drive near the bridge in Balashi. □

Source: "De kolibrie op de rots en meer over de geschiedenis van Aruba" by Evert Bongers.

Aruba Tourism Authority honored a loyal visitor at Marriott Aruba Surf Club!

The Aruba Tourism Authority recently had the great pleasure of recognizing a Goodwill Ambassador of Aruba. The honoree was respectively honored with a certifi-

cate for her years of visits, loyalty, and love for the island of Aruba.

The honorary certification is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation and to say "Masha Danki" to guests who have visited Aruba 10, 20, or 35 years or more consecutively.

The three levels of honor are as follows:

Distinguished Visitor (10>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

Goodwill Ambassador (20>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

Emerald Ambassador (35>years

consecutively visiting Aruba)

The honoree was:

Goodwill Ambassador

Ms. Cheryl Adams from Pikesville Maryland, United States.

Mr. Jorgino Willems representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and staff members of Marriott Aruba Surf Club bestowed the certification upon the honoree, presented her with gifts, and thanked her for choosing Aruba as her favorite vacation destination, as her home away from home.

Reason for returning to Aruba provided by the honoree was:

"I love Aruba for its prestigious

weather, safety, the kindness of its people, and the memorable relationships I've formed over the past 22 years during my 27 visits to the island. I have my Aruban family, whom I speak with weekly, and I share my magical experiences with my US family and friends. As a result, five families have visited here this year because of my love for Aruba, which truly feels like paradise on earth."

On behalf of the Aruba Tourism Authority, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the honorees for their continued visits to the "One Happy Island". □



Dining in? Try making a local favorite How to make “funchi hasa”

(Oranjestad)—A night in can be just as fun as a night out on the town, especially if you got the right snacks to munch on. One of the most famous Aruban snacks or appetizers is “funchi hasa” (fried polenta sticks). A super easy meal that adults and children will both enjoy. Here’s how to make it!

Before we start, get to know the basics. So what is funchi hasa? Funchi, or Aruban polenta, is a popular side dish for local dishes, like soups, stews and fried fish. Made from a corn flour, water and butter mixture, this appetizer is traditionally eaten alongside a warm meal. However, locals also like to fry sticks of funchi for a quick and filling snack.

Ingredients (measured by heart)



1. Polenta flour*
2. Water
3. Butter
4. Salt to taste

Directions

Bring water to a boil in a medium-sized sauce pan. Add in some salt and butter to taste in the boiling water and let this dissolve and melt. Then, gradually add the flour while stirring with a wooden spoon. The mixture will start to begin to harden pretty fast, so be careful not to add too much. At this phase of cooking, you want a goopy thick mixture, but thin enough so you can continue to stir to get all the lumps out.

After reaching a semi-firm, yet flexible texture, grab a baking pan or any large, deep plate, and pour the mixture in. Be sure that this plate is wet or greased so that the mixture does not stick to the bottom. Let this cool complete-

ly while it firms up for the last time. Once it's cooled you can enjoy it as is, topped with some butter or shredded cheese. Or, you can take it to another level of deliciousness.

When your funchi is firm enough, cut it into strips (size is up to you). Heat up some oil in a pan and fry those babies up! After frying, you can top it with some cheese or enjoy it with your favorite dipping sauce.

Note: We recommend the FUNCHI FRESKU polenta flour brand that is sold in all supermarkets on the island. You can also use yellow corn flour from the brand PAN.

Photo credit of fried funchi sticks: Jacqueline Felida on Pinterest.



Lessons from our elders: Plants and fruits for medicinal use

(Oranjestad)—Though western medicine is now widely used for common illnesses and to keep our bodies healthy and happy, it is still very common in every household in Aruba (and around the world) to have staple home remedies that is passed on through generations. Here are some tips that our elders have passed on to us over the years.

Pineapple

Pineapple has more uses than topping it on your Christmas ham. According to elders, the skin of a pineapple is great to use to refresh your body. Clean the skin thoroughly and make tea or warapa* with it. It is said that this tea can also be drank after an operation on the ovaries or uterus. This gets rid of irritation and inflammation.

When the fruit is unripe and green, this can be used to stimulate menstruation flow in women. This also stimulates the passing kidney stones. When ripe, the fruit can be used for poisoning in the gut and can help treat rheumatic diseases, like arthritis.

However, breastfeeding women who cannot produce much milk are advised not to consume too pineapple, and people with acid

reflux are recommended to not consume any pineapple at all.

Arrowroot

Arrowroot is native to tropical America and can be sold as a powder or whole. It is said that you can take arrowroot powder and make a “shalup” (porridge) for stomach pain or when you’re feeling weak. You can make it with milk too, but it is advised to best use just water. You can also add prunes for a bit of sweetness. Arrowroot shalup is also good to treat an unhealthy gut or for diarrhea.

To make arrowroot shalup, boil a bit of water and add one tablespoon of arrowroot powder and stir continuously until you reach porridge



consistency. If you make a shalup with milk, add a pinch of salt. Raw arrowroot powder can be used to powder babies.

Eggplant/Aubergine

Eggplants, or aubergines, are easy to find in supermarkets around the world and can be grown all year round on the island. Related to potato and tomato, eggplants are good to calm nerves. It can also be used to lower blood pressure, by steeping its leaves in boiled water and drinking it. You can also make eggplant juice to help purify your blood. However, do make sure to drink slowly; let it mix with your spit and then swallow.

Eggplant kataplan* can also be used to treat skin tumors, abscesses and hemorrhoids. Eggplant kataplan can also be used externally to treat arthritis.

*warapa: term referring to a water and sugar solution, a.k.a simple syrup.

*kataplan: porridge-like mixture used externally for wounds or parts of the body that are painful or swollen.

Aruba: the legend behind its name

(Oranjestad)—Most folkloric tales and legends in Aruba revolve around our indigenous ancestors, who came from mainland Venezuela, and discovered the island and made it into their new home. This particular legend tells the story of the birth of the Aruba name.

The legend follows the life of Arua, an indigenous Cacique originally from Aroa in the Falcon state in Venezuela in the year 50 AD. Arua had a son around the year 70 AD with his wife Shira, who they named Corobori. When Corobori was old enough, he joined his father on the usual boat trip to the islands of Curacao and Bonaire to gather salt.

On their way back to Mainland Venezuela, they were caught up in a heavy rain storm—a side effect from a passing, but far away, hurricane. Of course, because of the lack of motors and sail, their boat was left in the mercy of the heavy winds. After a while, the storm started to pass, and the clouds began to clear up. Finally able to see around them, the Cacique spotted land approximately an hour away. So, they started to row in that direction until they reached the coast.

Once they arrived on what they thought was Venezuela, they decided to stay the night and fix their kayak. The next morning, the Cacique ordered his son and a few warriors to go find any sign of population in the area: "Corobori," Arua said. "Don't come back without news. It's in your hands how long we stay here till we find our family. So, if you need to take a week to gather information, we will wait for you."

"Don't worry," Corobori replied. "As soon as we have any information, we will let you know." Armed with arrows and spears, backpacks filled with food and water containers, they set off. They climbed several small hills, but no sign of a village. They crossed different dry riverbeds, but no sign of anything. When the sun finally descended, they found themselves near a fairly tall hill and decided to climb it for a better view of a village. This hill was called Pan Dushi or Orcuyo, which today we call Hooiberg.

The next morning, they could clearly see that they have landed on an island, but an unfamiliar one at that. When Corobori went back to where his father was waiting, he told him the news: "Father Arua, you have just discovered an island, but it is not Curacao or Bonaire. Far in the south, we saw the big mountains of our homeland Venezuela, which we could have never seen on the other island. This leads us to believe we are on a new island. But that's not all. When the sun came up, we saw in the distance a glowing plain, which we think may be salt."

The Cacique was pleased to hear of his son's findings. He decided to stay a couple days on the newly-discovered island in search for salt. The next morning they ascended Hooiberg again and stayed to see if they could find nearby smoke, indicating an inhabitant village. But they found nothing. So they went back to their initial arrival settlement, now known as Santo Largo in Savaneta. The next morning they hiked along the Spaans Lagoen near the Mangel Halto Beach and reached the area of Bushiri. There, they boarded their kayaks and heading to what we know now as Malmok, where they found rocks of salt. After a couple days of exploring the island and gathering some salt rocks, they left for Venezuela, where they were reunited with their families.

Throughout the year, they travelled back and forth to Aruba, collecting salt. After a while they settled on the island, generations of families living along the coast. Corobori was the first indigenous inhabitant in our history to explore the entirety of the island.

Arua, after decades as the leader of his tribe, spent his last days on the island. Having reached 80 years old, he called for his family on his death bed. In his hammock, he said: "My children, many years have passed, and I've asked my warrior to bring me back to the island so I can laid to rest. The God of living has given me the gift of life to see my son, grandchildren and great grandchildren. But now he is calling me home. Corobori, my torch is now passed to you. Guide our people, and be the leader you were always meant to become. If one day you leave my island, do not forget that it is also yours. This is my last wish: When I die, bury me in our maize plantation."

And so when the Cacique passed away, his wishes were granted and he was laid to rest in the area we now know as the Paradera Cemetery. Where he used to live, they built the Paradera Church.

And that is the tale of what inspired the Aruba name. In the generations that lived or travelled back and forth to the island, there were many familiar names*, like Guadiriki, a warrior who was there when the island got discovered and his son, whom he called Huliba; Corobori and his children, Corodori, Camacuri and Turibana, Masiduri; and Malmok, the 13-year-old boy who alerted the Cacique when the Caribes attacked.

Familiar names: all these names are familiar to Arubans, as these are the names of places and plants on the island.

Source: Un storia di e Indjan Arua (A story of the Indian Arua) by Adolf (Dufi) Kock



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 44 Mean

- 1 Put in office
6 Sudden attack
11 Stylishly quaint
12 Supple
13 Party prep
14 Elizabeth of "Wanda-Vision"
15 Commercial
17 — Mahal
19 Swiss peak
20 Femur's upper end
23 Maine national park
25 TV explorer
26 They pass from parents to children
28 On the house
29 Instigate
30 "Sure thing!"
31 Was victorious
32 "My word!"
33 Musical shaker
35 Almanac section
38 Lose it
41 Citation
42 Musical drama
43 Spirited horse

- DOWN
1 Hosp. sections
2 Spike of film
3 "At Last" singer
4 Engine gunk
5 Schooner feature
6 Short fly ball
7 Bouncy tune
8 "— a boy!"
9 English article
10 Buddhism branch
16 Represent, in sports
17 Chewy candy

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | B | A | T | E | | W | E | S | T |
| L | A | L | A | W | | P | I | A | N |
| C | R | I | M | E | | E | L | T | O |
| A | R | T | S | | M | A | T | U | R |
| P | O | T | | A | I | R | | P | E |
| P | O | L | E | C | A | T | S | | |
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| O | N | E | T | W | O | | P | E | L |
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| A | N | G | E | R | | O | G | L | E |
| N | E | E | D | | | W | E | E | D |

Yesterday's answer

- 18 Without — in the world
20 Half of a team's schedule
21 Peace goddess
22 Fake gems
24 Game cube
25 Block up
27 Nine-sided shape
31 Grew in volume
33 Parcel (out)
34 Nightclub of song
35 Mensa entry numbers
36 Bolt's partner
37 Buck's mate
39 Skill
40 Calendar box

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 11 | | | | | | 12 | | | | |
| 13 | | | | | | 14 | | | | |
| | | 15 | | | 16 | | | | | |
| 17 | 18 | | | 19 | | | | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23 | | | 24 | | | 25 | | | | |
| 26 | | | | | | 27 | | | | |
| 28 | | | | | 29 | | | | | |
| 30 | | | | 31 | | | | 32 | | |
| | | | 33 | | | | 34 | | | |
| 35 | 36 | 37 | | | | 38 | | 39 | 40 | |
| 41 | | | | | | 42 | | | | |
| 43 | | | | | | 44 | | | | |

3-21

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

3-21

CRYPTOQUOTE

BNLRAHLRB AGR NWVJ DSJ AN
ERA TVNBFPR HB KJ
STTRQAHWE AGSA JNF'VV
WRZRP ERA HA. — MNGW
LSPO EPRRW

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: AND THAT'S THE THING ABOUT PEOPLE WHO MEAN EVERYTHING THEY SAY. THEY THINK EVERYONE ELSE DOES TOO. — KHALED HOSSEINI

Cruise ship Schedule: June 01 - June 25 2024

| | | | ARR | DEPT | BERTH | |
|-----|----|-----------------------|-------|-------|-------|---|
| SAT | 01 | NORWEGIAN JADE | 10.00 | 20.00 | C | 1 |
| THU | 06 | CELEBRITY BEYOND | 08.00 | 21.00 | C | 1 |
| TUE | 11 | SILVER SHADOW | 08.00 | 23.00 | B | 1 |
| | | ADVENTURE OF THE SEAS | 08.00 | 20.00 | C | 1 |
| | | CARNIVAL MARDI GRAS | 13.00 | 23.00 | I | 1 |
| WED | 12 | CARNIVAL HORIZON | 07.00 | 15.00 | B | 1 |
| | | RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS | 09.00 | 21.00 | C | 1 |
| TUE | 18 | CELEBRITY BEYOND | 08.00 | 21.00 | B | 1 |
| | | CARNIVAL CELEBRATION | 08.00 | 22.00 | C | 1 |
| | | CARNIVAL VISTA | 13.00 | 23.00 | I | 1 |
| TUE | 25 | CARNIVAL HORIZON | 09.00 | 22.00 | C | 1 |

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic—but important—information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

lets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

Supermarket hours



Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.

Electrical power



Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of out-

Drinking water



The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.

Safety



Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occurs, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.

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(Associated Press Illustration/Jenni Sohn)

Visa's Mark Nelsen wants to make your plastic credit card obsolete

By Ken Sweet
AP Business Writer

Mark Nelsen, Visa's global head of consumer payments, sees a world where the plastic card in your wallet becomes increasingly obsolete and the standard 16-digit account number becomes worthless.

Nelsen spoke to The Associated Press about what Visa, the world's largest payment processor, is changing to payment processing in the U.S. and elsewhere around the world over the coming year. The biggest changes in the U.S. will be allowing Americans to access multiple accounts from the same bank from one bank card, be it checking or savings, debit or credit. The interview has been edited for length and clarity.

Q: It used to be when it comes to payments, it was credit or debit, checks or cash. Now it feels like we have so many choices, it's hard to keep up.

A: There've been more changes in the last five years than in the last 50 from a payment perspective. And so rather than trying to pick a winner, like here's the way people are going to pay in every market, we are trying to support all these different ways to pay. Just allow for the choice.

Q: What is the new feature known as "flexible credential?"

A: I'm someone who has, like, three cards from one bank alone. That's a remnant from when a card could only be one thing: debit or prepaid or credit.

And so the concept of this flexible credential is that a card can be whatever the consumer wants. □



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| | |
|----------------|----------|
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| Sta. Cruz | 527 2900 |
| San Nicolas | 584 5000 |
| Police Tipline | 11141 |
| Ambulancia | 911 |
| Fire Dept. | 115 |
| Red Cross | 582 2219 |

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| | |
|------------------|----------|
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| Prof. Taxi | 588 0035 |
| Taxi D.T.S. | 587 2300 |
| Taxi Serv. Aruba | 583 3232 |
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| | |
|-------------------|----------|
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Real-life brothers-in-law Jake Gyllenhaal and Peter Sarsgaard are adversaries in 'Presumed Innocent'

By **ALICIA RANCILIO**
Associated Press

Occasionally, while filming an intense courtroom scene for his new series, Jake Gyllenhaal would catch his "Presumed Innocent" co-star Peter Sarsgaard glaring at him from across the room.

"It was just funny," recalled Gyllenhaal in a recent interview alongside Sarsgaard, doing a quick impression of Sarsgaard's stare.

"It's like, 'OK, OK,'" joked Gyllenhaal as if to say "tone it down" as Sarsgaard cackled at the commentary.

The two rib each other like family because they are family. Sarsgaard is married to Gyllenhaal's older sister, actor and director Maggie Gyllenhaal.

It's not Gyllenhaal and Sarsgaard's first time acting together, either. They also co-starred in 2005's "Jarhead" and 2007's "Rendition." But "Presumed Innocent" is their first series together (and Gyllenhaal's first TV show ever) and marks the first time they're playing adversaries.

Premiering Wednesday on Apple TV+, "Presumed Innocent" is based on the legal thriller novel by Scott Turow that was originally adapted as a 1990 film starring Harrison Ford.



Peter Sarsgaard, left, and Jake Gyllenhaal attend the "Presumed Innocent" premiere during the Tribeca Festival at BMCC Tribeca Performing Arts Center on Sunday, June 9, 2024, in New York.
Associated Press

Here, Gyllenhaal plays Chicago prosecutor Rusty Sabich, charged with murdering his colleague an accusation that has fractured the district attorney's office. Sarsgaard is attorney Tommy Molto, another co-worker intent on proving Sabich's guilt. Meanwhile, Sabich's marriage to Barbara (Ruth Negga) is falling apart under the weight of the accusation and the potential he could be found guilty. Early scripts didn't pit Sabich and Molto against

each other quite as antagonistically, but creator and showrunner David E. Kelley took note of Gyllenhaal and Sarsgaard's chemistry and pivoted.

"It's a little bit like a football quarterback coming up to the line at some point and looking at what you've got in front of you ... and seeing where the opportunities lay," Kelley said.

O-T Fagbenle, who plays attorney Nico Della Guardia, also enjoyed watching the two spar.

"I'm an ignoramus. I only found out on set that they were related," Fagbenle said. "They got on great, obviously, but they really have brotherly kind of, you know, roughhousing. Not physical but like verbal. And so when I saw them, I was just like, 'Oh, wow, there is such a history between you two.'"

Gyllenhaal agrees that shared history is what makes them able to push each other's buttons as needed.

"I love him so deeply, which comes with all the complications too," Gyllenhaal said. "We've been through so much together, and so we can bring those things out in the fictional world."

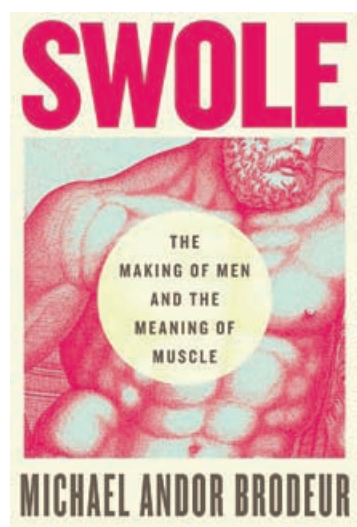
The brothers-in-law recognized their emotionally charged scenes could be a spectacle, like when Sarsgaard's character grills Gyllenhaal's in a cross-examination.

"Everyone is excited for it," Gyllenhaal said. "Like, 'What's Peter going to do today?'"

They also have the comfort and trust to give each other notes on what to play up, what to dial back, or perhaps interpret differently.

"Jake will be like, 'I see what you meant, but I don't think that's actually reading the way you think,'" said Sarsgaard. "That's someone who's really, really listening to you."

Even if you have a great director, it doesn't read like someone who really knows you and sees you as an artist. This family has a very special connection that way. We're very good at witnessing each other." Filming a series for the first time, says Gyllenhaal, "was a fascinating process, one I've never had and one you don't have on a film," he said. □



This cover image released by Beacon Press shows "Swole: The Making of Men and the Meaning of Muscle" by Michael Andor Brodeur.
Associated Press

Book Review: 'Swole' explores what masculinity could be in a hyperconnected, TikTok-imaged world

By **KEN SWEET**
AP Business Writer

Author Michael Brodeur takes the gym too seriously, and not seriously at all at the same time, in his book "Swole: The Making of Men and the Meaning of Muscles" in an effort to show the readers that the overly online world of hypermasculinity is an illusion and what a man can be is what you make of it.

Brodeur evokes his own autobiography to guide the reader through the history of weightlifting and the role of men in society. He's a middle-aged, Gen-X, self-described "meathead" who brags about the depths of his squats and size of his biceps and butt, but also lives a life as the classical music critic for The Washington Post and a gay man.

These dueling identities weave through Brodeur's "Swole." The narrative works, most of the time, but sometimes Bro-

deur's chapters feel more like miniature essays surrounding a broader theme of masculinity than a comprehensive whole.

He celebrates male bodies and men wanting to be bigger, stronger, and uses humor and the history of idols like Arnold Schwarzenegger, He-Man, and professional wrestling to show how men's identities have evolved and changed since he was a child struggling to come to terms with his own sexual orientation.

Brodeur appears to reject the modern-day gym industry that often sells their version of the ideal body: A place where calorie counts are perfected, macronutrients are measured and microtargeting of muscle groups are a must. Instead, Brodeur tells the reader to reach for the ideal you want be comfortable looking at yourself in a mirror, and know it's also OK to be somewhat embarrassed about looking at yourself in a mirror. □

Jerry West, a 3-time Hall of Fame selection and the inspiration for the NBA logo, dies at 86

By **TIM REYNOLDS**
AP Basketball Writer

Jerry West, who was selected to the Basketball Hall of Fame three times in a storied career as a player and executive, and whose silhouette is considered to be the basis of the NBA logo, died Wednesday morning, the Los Angeles Clippers announced.

He was 86.

West, nicknamed "Mr. Clutch" for his late-game exploits as a player, was an NBA champion who went into the Hall of Fame as a player in 1980 and again as a member of the gold medal-winning 1960 U.S. Olympic Team in 2010. He will be enshrined for a third time later this year as a contributor, and NBA Commissioner Adam Silver called West "one of the greatest executives in sports history."

"He helped build eight championship teams during his tenure in the NBA a legacy of achievement that mirrors his on-court excellence," Silver said.

West was "the personification of basketball excellence and a friend to all who knew him," said the Clippers, who employed him as a consultant for the last seven years. West's wife, Karen, was by his side when he died, the Clippers said.



Jerry West speaks during a news conference to introduce him as an advisor to the Los Angeles Clippers, in Los Angeles, June 19, 2017.

West was an All-Star in all 14 of his NBA seasons, a 12-time All-NBA selection, part of the 1972 Los Angeles Lakers team that won a championship, an NBA Finals MVP when the Lakers lost to the Boston Celtics in 1969 the first year that award was given out, and still the only time it went to a player on the losing team and was selected as part of the NBA's 75th anniversary team.

"He was absolutely my basketball sage: wise, loyal and so much fun," Clippers owner Steve Ballmer said. "If you were in his presence, you felt his competitiveness and his drive. He cared about everything and everyone."

West was general manager of championship teams with the Lakers, helping build the "Showtime" dynasty. He also worked in the front offices of the Mem-

phis Grizzlies, the Golden State Warriors and the Clippers. Among his many highlights as an executive with the Lakers: he drafted Magic Johnson and James Worthy, then brought in Kobe Bryant and Shaquille O'Neal to win more titles. His basketball life bridged generations: West played with Elgin Baylor, whom he called "the most supportive and the greatest player of that era," and Wilt Cham-

berlain. Even in the final years of his life, West was considered basketball royalty. He routinely sat court-side at Summer League games in Las Vegas, often watching many games in a day while greeting long lines of players LeBron James among them who would approach to shake his hand.

James, on social media, offered his condolences: "Will truly miss our convos my dear friend! My thoughts and prayers goes out to your wonderful family! Forever love Jerry! Rest in Paradise my guy!"

West is 25th on the NBA's all-time scoring list. The league has never confirmed that West was in fact the model for its logo a player dribbling a ball, set against a red-and-blue background but has never said otherwise, either.

"While it's never been officially declared that the logo is Jerry West," Silver said in 2021, "it sure looks a lot like him."

West is still the NBA Finals' all-time leader in total points. He played in the title series nine times with the Lakers; his teams went 1-2 against the New York Knicks, and 0-6 against the Celtics. "Those damn Celtics," he often said. □

Associated Press

Transgender swimmer Lia Thomas fails in challenge to rules that bar her from elite women's races

LAUSANNE, Switzerland (AP) — Transgender swimmer Lia Thomas failed in her challenge against rules that stop her from competing in elite women's races because judges ruled she did not have standing to bring the case.

The Court of Arbitration for Sport panel of three judges dismissed Thomas' request for arbitration with the World Aquatics governing body, in a ruling released Wednesday.

World Aquatics banned transgender women who have been through male

puberty from competing in women's races.

It also created an "open" category for which transgender athletes would be eligible.

Thomas had asked the sports court in Switzerland to overturn the rules approved in 2022 that she said were invalid, unlawful and discriminatory.

Thomas swam for the University of Pennsylvania and won an NCAA title in meets that are outside the World Aquatics competitive system, in which she was not registered.

"The panel concludes that she lacks standing to challenge the policy and the operational requirements in the framework of the present proceeding," the court said in its ruling.

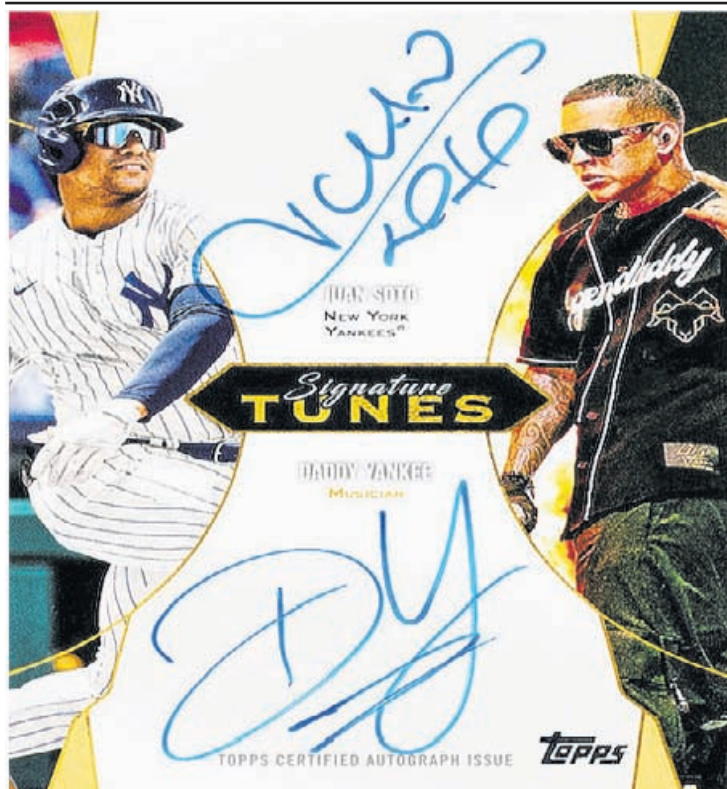
The judges said USA Swimming had no authority "to modify such scope of application" of the world governing body's rules.

World Aquatics said it welcomed the CAS decision in a case "we believe is a major step forward in our efforts to protect women's sport." □



University of Pennsylvania athlete Lia Thomas prepares for the 500 meter freestyle event at the NCAA Swimming and Diving Championships, March 17, 2022, at Georgia Tech in Atlanta.

Associated Press



This image provided by Topps, shows a Topps Series 2: Signature Tunes Card. The Soto-Daddy Yankee collaboration is one of two "Signature Tunes" cards that are part of the latest edition of Topps Series 2 as the famed card company shines a light on players and the artists behind their walk-up music.

Associated Press

Juan Soto joins Daddy Yankee and Kyle Tucker teams with Travis Scott on Topps Series 2 cards

By JAY COHEN
AP Baseball Writer

Juan Soto has been on baseball cards with Ken Griffey Jr., Mike Trout, Fernando Tatis Jr., Manny Machado and Xander Bogaerts. But this one, well, this one was a little different for Soto. This one had the New York Yankees slugger and Puerto Rican musician Daddy Yankee.

"It surprised me. It really struck me when they told me. ... It came over to my house, and I saw myself with Daddy Yankee," Soto said. "It was just great. I mean, the Big Boss! It's just great."

The Soto-Daddy Yankee collaboration is one of two "Signature Tunes" cards that are part of the latest edition of Topps Series 2 as the famed card company shines a light on players and the artists behind their walk-up music.

Houston Astros slugger Kyle Tucker and rap superstar Travis Scott are on the other "Signature Tunes" card. Scott is from Houston, and he gave the Astros pairs of his Air Jordan 1 Low Olive shoes last year.

There are 25 autographed versions of each duo in Series 2, which was released on Wednesday.

"You don't see too many of those, you see them typically with another player or something like that," Tucker said. "But to be on a card or baseball card with someone that kind of has a further reach outside of baseball is, I think, pretty cool."

Daddy Yankee and Myke Towers another Puerto Rican musician also are included in the set's "First Pitch" insert cards, highlighting the ubiquitous pre-game ritual.

Clay Luraschi, the head of product development for Topps, said music, particularly walk-up, and for pitchers, warmup music, has become an important part of the game. What we really do is, we think about, OK, the core of it for Series 2 or Series 1, our flagship, it's baseball," he said, "but what are the other things that are like surrounding the game that fans are also interested in? And that's where we come up with these other ideas that we feel like, you know, fit into the world of the game."

Tucker was placed on the 10-day injured list on Friday with a bruised right shin. But he has been using Rich Homie Quan's "Walk Thru" as his walk-up song before his plate appearances. He has used Scott's "Escape Plan" in the past.

"Walk Thru" had been Michael Brantley's walk-up tune before he retired in January after finishing his career with the Astros.

"It was kind of somewhat of a tribute to Mike's career and stuff. And I just kind of kept it going," Tucker said. "Really the first game I got a couple of hits when I used it, so I just kept rolling with it and it's done pretty well for me."

The 27-year-old Tucker, who is among the major league leaders with 19 homers, said he likes Houston reliever Ryan Pressly using Johnny Cash's "God's Gonna Cut You Down" as his warmup music. □



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